

**MINUTES OF THE  
GOVERNOR'S BOARD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
March 16, 2007 Meeting  
Hill Air Force Base, Utah  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

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**Members Present:** Ragula Bhaskar, Jack Brittain by phone, Molonai Hola, Mark Howell, Mel Lavitt, Jerry Oldroyd, Gerald Sherratt, David Simmons, Debra Tanzi

**Members Absent:** Bill Boyle, Mary Draper, Amy Rees Lewis, Richard Nelson, Cliff White

**Visitors:** Jeff Edwards, Tauni Everett, Colleen Fraser, Major General Kevin Sullivan, Samantha Thermos, LuAnn Valentin by phone, Brice Wallace by phone

**Staff:** Clark Caras, Connie Gates, Amy Hamblin, Gary Harter, Michael Nelson, Pete Pletsch, Jason Perry, Mike Sullivan, Pat Vaughn, Marshall Wright

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**Welcome-**

Chairman Simmons welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Major General Kevin Sullivan gave a brief welcome and summary of what HAFB will discuss during the meeting.

**Approve February 16, 2007 Minutes**

**MOTION: Mel Lavitt moved to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2007 GOED Board Meeting. Molonai Hola seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

David Simmons welcomed and introduced a new board member, Ragula Bhaskar, CEO of Fatpipe Networks.

**Committee Report - Incentives**

Mark Howell reported that an application for a small composites company was brought to the Incentives Committee on Monday, but the committee did not approve the project.

**GOED Report**

Jason Perry announced that April's board meeting will be at IM Flash down in Lehi. There was discussion on the Legislative Bills that were just passed:

- Rural Broadband Service Fund - GOED will have rulemaking authority
- Rural Fast Track Program 20% of IAF
- Healthcare for small businesses - \$350K to draft next legislation
- Engineering Initiative
- Travel & Tourism - \$11 million this year, must request each year

Utah has been the recipient of some awards recently. Kauffman Foundation ranked Utah overall as #12 and #1 for "Economic Dynamism". There was a short presentation on some of the recent ads and promotions that Travel/Tourism is running. There were 19.3 million visitors to the state in 2006, transient room tax revenue increased 16.9%, municipality tax rate 20.4%, State Park visits up 1.7%, and 4.1 million skiers last year.

There is one board member opening still available. There have been meetings regarding new and expiring terms, members should be receiving phone calls soon. GOED will also be able to spend time with the Governor one day, every other week to visit Utah businesses. Please forward any contacts or companies that you think should be on the visitation list. EDCUTAH and GOED held a Site Selection Dinner on Friday. The Governor's Economic Summit will be at the Grand America on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

There was discussion on addressing the long term impacts of incentives. There are so many new jobs and businesses coming here, when does that start to affect the quality of life? We need to be conscientious of the businesses and jobs that are coming to Utah. Put a higher focus on high paying jobs and the impact to the communities.

Jeff Edwards, EDCUTAH, pointed out that most of the selection on projects happen on a local level. The local communities do not understand what they need economically, and don't quite understand the impact of bringing in a company. Mayor Sherratt discussed small town development and what they have learned. The board needs to educate cities and counties on the affects and the impacts to their community.

We could work with other organizations. EDCUTAH does offer some training for elected officials around the state, but finds that it is a challenge to get people to attend. Maybe we could hold an annual conference or summit. We could use the offsite board meetings as an educational tool as well. Along with educating local communities we also need to coordinate with other organizations around the state and look at these issues as a whole. The REMI Model was discussed. It would be beneficial to have an economist talk to the board.

Chairman Simmons announced that his term is expiring and will not be standing for re-appointment. During his fourteen years on the board he has witnessed a tremendous growth of the state. He reported on the changes in population, business and job creation, unemployment and labor market since joining the board in 1993. Chairman Simmons thanked EDCUTAH and GOED for the wonderful relationship and for the great things they have accomplished. He also reminded the board on the importance of infrastructure, broadband, transportation, healthcare and education. Jason Perry presented Chairman Simmons with a gift and thanked him for his years of service. Mark Howell and Jeff Edwards both thanked Chairman Simmons for being a great leader and chairman of the GOED Board.

Mel Lavitt moved to adjourn the meeting. Molonai Hola seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned.